

# Aside in Wind Dark

Chapter 1.35

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"Akkoen" is a word that defines

You, me, us.



"Beings who must be protected."

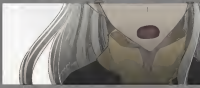
It's as if someone  
just defined the  
Akkoen and said:  
"That's what they're like."

A distinction  
made purely based upon  
our appearance.



What if we're all  
bound by  
someone's will?

And, what exactly  
is the difference between  
Akkoen and humans?



So, are you only protecting me because I'm an Akkoen?



Is that the only important thing to you?

# Abide in the Wind

Episode - Dark (Part 2)

Story - Ari

Shin Wool

CRACK

The scent and sound of scraping  
iron grating on your nerves.

CRACK

This girl's become  
too humanized;

she's not  
as valuable.



This one, however,  
is perfectly valuable.



An uncontrollable sensation.

And,



as for you...



You're useless  
as you currently are.  
I won't take you  
with me just yet



The thing that Rahetanoka  
left for your kind —

When you have  
become its contractor,  
return to me.



Understood?

Ah, right.



Avoid anything  
that has become  
familiar.



Deception



you must remain  
in a fixed state.



After the storm passed

when I was finally  
able to move my body



Lady Lure



Her hair...

Lu—



DON'T COME  
CLOSER!

STAY THERE!



The change has already happened.



Don't question  
anything.

Please, be satisfied  
with what has been  
bestowed upon you.



Even though  
time will pass and the  
world will change.



we must  
remain in a  
fixed state...

Ah... Ah...

That means

we have to disappear...



The first human  
was a Light  
Elemental.



As were the  
second and  
the third.

Elementals of  
Darkness elected to die  
rather than change



There is a  
person crying  
in front of me.

You are the parent  
form of Akuma  
the form the god  
desired

yet, my feet  
are unmoving.



The first human  
committed a grave sin

and received a severe  
punishment for it

As such, anyone  
with rounded ears is  
sent into exile



That hasn't changed.



Now that  
I've changed,  
it can't return.

What am I  
supposed to protect?



I'm not one  
of you anymore.

Um...

What I really want to protect is—

Too soon!



Don't question anything.

Accept things  
the way they are.





You

must remain  
in a fixed state.



I'm going to  
search for Bea.  
You should go  
back to the village.



How strange.



If Bea has not  
returned by the time  
you have matured and  
become a contractor,

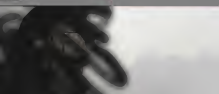
Although she is clearly  
a human with round ears

find that  
child



and  
protect him.

She still has...

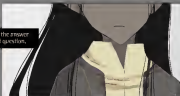


What is the boundary that divides Akkora and humans?



Who and what  
defined it?

If I find the answer  
to that question,



would that  
which has been lost,  
be found again?



When I relocated here...

Bea was neither Akkora nor human.

Akkora are

like animals that  
respond by instinct.





No, they're lower than animals



Animals at least have a sense of self preservation.

He had become something else.

They don't resist when they are driven out by humans.

Nor do they know how to reject a request.



I told them to disappear and they all surrendered themselves to the End of the World.

What was Darkness thinking by trying to preserve them in such a way?

Luna... She...



Luna?



AAAAAAAAHA!

THAT THING  
IS A HUMAN!



APPARENTLY IT  
MATED WITH A HUMAN  
AND HAD A CHILD!

Even if it wanted to  
that thing couldn't even  
pretend to know me!

After all, I was a noble  
amongst the humans  
and it is a mere plebeian.



It fled to the  
Old Continent

knowing that if  
it said the wrong thing,  
it would be murdered.

Ah...



Even who once  
shone so brightly  
is brought but  
a dull person

inferior beings



have to disappear.

But, you've done well  
in following the  
command to find me

I'm not one of your gods,  
but I'm similar to them

So, of course,  
I expected your  
obedience and  
I was correct.



I'm preparing  
for something.



Something related  
to the Dragons which  
were once your gods.

And when it comes,  
it shall be a magnificent  
gift for all life in this world —  
humans especially.

I want to you to  
work alongside a human  
for the time being.

Serve him as  
your master while  
you wait for the  
time to come.



Say it's for the sake of  
Akoom eroinc potson

You're both  
vessel candidates,  
so be nice to him.



Is it natural that the Akoom are inferior —  
that they are to disappear?



Go after that  
light just now.

It's not because we've lost it;  
there's just no point in protecting it.

Isn't that why it's disappearing?

There should be  
a girl with golden-  
brown hair and  
blue eyes.

Find out  
her motives and  
objectives.

That's a  
Dragon

and his Rŷenas.

"Human."

The title of warrior  
used to be reserved  
for those who protected  
the Rŷenas.

So, if the Rhyenas  
gives me a command,

should it take  
priority over his  
commands?

Even if it is the  
command of a human?

but...

But.

I still hope you'll  
choose to live.

Because

life itself is  
meaningful.

...

Live...?

Because life is meaningful as it is



That human Kiyomas —

So live...

"kill her."

...?

I never questioned

what the world demanded from me  
and why I was inclined to obey.

What?

Is change wrong?

Is a fixed state right?

Why are things  
fixed as they are?

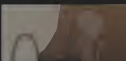
Are we meant  
to disappear?

Don't question anything.

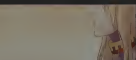
Accept things as they are.



Don't try to change the world.



I've had an  
epiphany.



**"CONTRADICTION"**

One life

is equivalent  
to one world.

— my existence is a contradiction.

Ahh, that's why

It went to the  
End of the World.

Dark is the warrior  
who protects the  
Dragon's Rhymes.

It is that lack of doubt  
in Akane that makes  
them most suitable to form  
contracts with Dark Elemental  
Dragon Artifacts.



*Ambiguity and uncertainty give rise to contradictions; without unswerving certainty.*

*It is impossible to fulfill the contract required to wield Dark artifacts.*



*While humans may be difficult, Akoom are easy to make into vessels.*

*But I can't just use anything for a vessel...*

...

...



*When you awaken, things will have changed.*





Yes, everything.

# Abide in the Wind

Episode • Dark

Story • Art

Kan Wool

E N D

# Abide in the Wind

Next Episode : Yulachiyel Harbor

## Chapter 136

# Abide in the Wind

## The Beginning of Life

In the beginning of the world, the Dragons decided to fill the land with life; a decision which all the Dragons agreed upon – except for Darkness, who believed the life forms would bring destruction. As such, the earth was filled with creatures; creatures who were characterized as “ever-changing.” Foremost amongst these changing beings were the three-eyed Mirage Beasts. Though they were known as being selfish and greedy creatures, they became the first Rivenas by assuming the forms of humans (Refer to chapters 27 & 125).

## Darkness’ Descent

Darkness, however, choose one of the pointed ear folk to be his Rivenas. He believed them superior because of their selfless nature. But, Darkness developed an attachment to something of the world. He found that he “cared and cared for something... so he wished that it would never change.” Yet, the nature of the world was to change. So, Darkness, defying his nature as a Dragon, decided to interfere with the world. In doing so, Darkness was stripped of his Dragon-hood and became something else – Chaos/Malevolence/Parasitoid. No longer a Dragon, he took on the form of vessels; presently he resides in Eren Rochard. Now, he is waiting for the fall of Kairak which will bring about “The greatest chaos in the land” (Refer to chapters 8, 98, 99, 125 & 133).

## Luna’s Hypothesis and the Akoom

Three hundred years ago, all humans had pointy ears. Now, however, those without rounded ears are known as the Akoom. The Akoom are known as a servile race and worship the Dragons as gods. Consequently, they are required to obey the Rivenas, though the Rivenas is known to them as “the power that once brought doom to [the Akoom]” (Refer to chapters 27, 81 & 127).

As for Luna’s argument (at the end of Chapter 134): she concludes that some will has interfered with the fate of the Akoom, making them unlike the other races. As in, something has frozen them and pulled them out of the cycle of change that affects the other races. It’s likely that she is uncovering the effects of Darkness’ attempts to free the world from its cycle of change.

## Munyak and King Pabel

Unlike other Dragons, Munyak chose her Rivenas based on “a certain light in their eye.” With her first Rivenas, she decided to bear a child; however, her Rivenas incited her irrationality and she sired a parasitoid. She sealed her egg away with a servant and then secluded herself into the Labyrinth. It was there that she met Pabel. (Refer to chapter 112).

Though Pabel was made Munyak’s Rivenas, he was never told the nature of the relationship – that as Rivenas he was the safeguard against corruption to Munyak. Because Pabel was not able to keep the Dragon Pearl purified, it became corrupted. Munyak split into three parts: Munyak, Munee and Muhyang. Munee and Muhyang remained in the Labyrinth of Terre with the fragment of the Dragon Pearl, while Munyak was constrained in the palace basement where Pabel could draw from her power despite him not having a Dragon Pearl (Refer to chapters 98 & 109).

## Kairak and Reana

As for Kairak, he has two characteristics that make him different from other Dragons. The first is that being born the child of the Dragon Munyak and her Rivenas, Kairak is the world’s only immature Dragon. As such, he lacks the “complete” nature that all other Dragons had when coming to the world, he remains flexible until he reaches maturity (Refer to chapters 18, 99 & 100).

The second is that he defies the typical Dragon rationale for electing a Rivenas. According to the Imugi, Dragons pick beings with strong desires (as in selfish desires – as per the nature of Imugi) to become their Rivenas. Kairak, however, picked Reana out of his desire to be with her. Not only that, but he also chose a human to be his Reana; something unheard of due to their short-lived mortality and lack of power (Refer to chapters 8, 12 & 100).

## Are Summaries

### Rivenas

- Pabel’s parasitoid finds Kairak and attempts to corrupt him; Didan bestows the Dragon Pearl on Reana to save Kairak.
- Reana agrees to bear the Dragon Pearl for a year until Kairak matures and can leave the planet. Kairak moves into her home with her.
- Reihart comes to Reana’s home town and receives a gift – a gun made by Reana which Kairak has made a Dragon artifact. He begins to search for the maker of the unique item.
- Pabel’s second parasitoid finds Reana’s father and takes his body. He then confronts Reana and tells her that she must come with him to recover her father. Reana uses purify instead and her father perishes.
- Kairak announces the Reana will be his only Rivenas.
- Reihart catches up to Reana as she and Kairak flee her burning house.
- Pabel enlists West Stravin’s aid in capturing the Rivenas.
- Reana decides to head to the Forest of the Mirage Beasts to find the origin of the parasitoid who killed her father.

### Mirage Beasts

- Reana makes a contract with the Moonlight Sliding Sword.
- She joins with the reporter Ralton and Hick, his Akoom slave, while searching for the Mirage Beast Hunters. Ralton develops a crush on Reana.
- They travel to the peculiar village where the Mirage Beast Hunters live and meet the Imugi Karin and her brother Mugi.
- Karin and Mugi are instructed that one of them must become the Rivenas. Karin disobeys and decides to manipulate Reana instead.
- The Imugi take them the meet the Imugi Elders at the circle. They expose Didan as being a traitor to humans and Dragons.
- The Imugi poison Hick with their blood and kidnap Ralton. They expose him to an Uduk which will overtake his body. But Reana purifies him and it kills the Uduk. And Hick is rescued by Dark.
- They erase Ralton’s memory and send him and Hick on their way. Hick is captured, tortured, and murdered by West Stravin and Tashia Rochard.
- Karin offers to help Reana in her quest.

### Labyrinth of Terre

- Reana saves Vero from being eaten.
- Reana saves Janina, an Akoom slave, from a severe beating by her master Kaneta.
- Karin teaches Reana the basics of using the Dragon pearl. She has Reana make her a special stone which regenerates whoever holds it.
- West Stravin authorizes Reana, Kairak and Karin to enter the Labyrinth. They are all separated in the Labyrinth and Stravin takes the opportunity to attempt to capture Reana. Karin, however, rescues her and kills Stravin.
- Reana is attacked by the Labyrinth’s guardians. She uses the Dragon Pearl’s power and injures Janina, who was instructed to go into the Labyrinth by her master Kaneta. Reana purifies Janina.
- Kairak ends up trapped by Munee and Muhyang, two consciences that were once part of his mother Munyak. Muhyang attempts to bond with Reana so she can leave the world (Dragons can only leave when they have a Rivenas). Because Reana is already Kairak’s Rivenas, Muhyang tries to kill Kairak and take his place. Reana calls out to Kairak and it incites a growth in him; Muhyang’s attempt failed.
- Munee asks to fuse with Vero so that Kairak can deal with her fragmented Dragon Pearl when he matures.
- Reihart leads a slaughter of Mirage Beast Hunters in Duduk and takes Karin’s brother.
- Janina asks Reana to save her master, Colonel Kaneta. Reana purifies her of black eye.

### Tatarang

- Karin takes Reana and Kairak to the library at Tatarang so they can research the artefact that killed Reana’s father. They meet Wala Toon and Eren Rochard who have come for the slave auction.
- Perturbed by her brother’s failure to report in, Karin goes off to seek him.
- Eren Rochard identifies Kairak as a Dragon by noting the similarity between Kairak and his mother from when he first saw her locked in the basement.
- The Black Chain terrorist group bombs the site of the slave auction and Reana refuses to flee without trying to save the trapped people. While Reihart attempts to deal with the terrorists, Reana uses the Door of Dimensions to bring the people to safety.
- Kairak is under heavy duress with all the fear and destruction around him. Reana is initially unable to purify a victim who was transformed into a monster because of Kairak’s mental state.
- She falls through the ground to the slave quarters and is caught by Dark. Despite being allowed their freedom, the Akoom do not desire it as they have lost their light; they only save themselves at the request of the Rivenas.

- Reana interferes with Reihart’s fight and the prince begins to fall into the first stage of mind corruption. However, her touch brings restoration and he realises the power she has. He decides she cannot be allowed to fall into Pabel’s grasp.
- Kairak collapses and Reana must breathe her aura into him. She is transported to the Purification Chamber, only now it is filled with interlocking crimson chains. She swears that she will not betray Kairak even if he turns into a monster and he wakes up very elated – showing very human emotions for the first time.

### Capital Hollan: Festival

- Continuing the search for the parasitoid, Reana and Kairak meet up with Karin in Hollan. She introduces them to Mamagi and Mamarin who serve as guides through the Capital. They learn the artifact used by the parasitoid was smuggled out by an art dealer.
- Kairak persists in his newfound emotions, offering Reana compliments and smuggling next to her. He whisks her away from town and asks if Reana really wants him to leave the world and asks if she regrets having saved him. Reana kisses him in an effort to give him assurance, but then grows embarrassed by her actions.
- The King announces to the enchained Munyak that he is to be married again. The lady, Elless, is from a disgraced noble family and formerly was in a relationship with Reihart. Reihart request that Elless acquire the rod required to access Munyak.
- Eren Rochard lures Karin to his black eye manufacturing facility where she learns that Yagi – who was the original contractor of the Lance of Zainarak and the one who incited Munyak’s irrationality against Pabel – is being kept to supply the Rochards with black eye.
- Eren Rochard explain the Darkness’ history before capturing Karin.

### Capital Hollan: Collapse.

- While Reana is waiting to meet with the art dealer/smuggler, Elless murders him and takes the rod that Reihart requested her to seize. Reana and Kairak are framed for the murder.
- Reihart takes away Munyak’s restraining collar and she transforms into Dragon form to protect herself.
- While on the run, a letter carrier gives Reana an invitation with Reana’s brother’s name on it. Following the instructions of the letter, Reana, Mamagi and Kairak board a train only to fall into Reihart’s trap.
- Reihart asks Reana to help him decapitate the king and when she refuses he slaps Munyak’s collar onto Reana; both she and Kairak are disabled. Meanwhile, Munyak wreaks havoc on the capital.

### Dorton

- Reana regains consciousness to find she cannot speak or use the Dragon Pearl. She is experimented on by her brother with help from Reihart’s Dragon Knights including Milanka.
- Ralton, who had been imprisoned for writing anti-slavery propaganda, was released by Dark. He stumbles upon Reana as she is being harassed by Reihart’s admirers. The restraining collar put on Reana, unfortunately, signifies her as being something of a sex slave belonging to royalty.
- With Pabel no longer in control of Munyak, Tashia Rochard ages dramatically. Eren offers her black eye and tells her to take the brainwashed Karin to attack Dorton.
- In the chaos, Reana finds Vero and purifies Karin – though, she was not taken the purification chamber.
- Tashia Rochard goads Reihart into suspicion of Eren; he and Dark travel to Zakellun to confront Eren. Dark cannot defy Eren, who was formerly the Dragon Darkness, and so Reihart is captured and imprisoned near Kairak.
- Elless assaults Reana, despising her because of Reana’s collar. Reana’s brother is shot helping her flee from the abuse. Eren appears and requests that Dark pierce Reana’s heart with Darkness; when Dark refuses, he tells Elless to do so. She bursts into blackthorn after firing the shot.
- Eren releases Reana’s collar and she perishes, having burned out her life force, and the Dragon Pearl returns to Kairak.
- With the return of Kairak’s Dragon Pearl, the Zakellun Concentration Camp is destroyed and Reihart escapes. He comes across Munee and what remains of Reana’s soul dwelling in Vero. Munee gives him the option of saving Reana or watching the world fall to ruin.